

What is claimed is:

5 *Sub*
1. An internet enabled automatic rental vehicle transaction system, said system having an internet web portal through which an authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services may access a rental vehicle software program resident on a computer system, said rental vehicle software program being configured to automatically respond to a series of commands from said authorized purchaser and communicate a rental vehicle reservation to a specific geographically remote rental vehicle location at which vehicles for rent are situated, said rental vehicle reservation having sufficient information for authorizing, processing and billing said rental vehicle transaction so that a rental vehicle transaction may be automatically processed thereby virtually without human intervention. 10

5 2. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 1 wherein said authorized purchaser comprises a business organization, said business organization having a plurality of authorized purchasers, said plurality of authorized purchasers being enabled to access said internet web portal from any location offering internet web access, and further comprising a second business organization, said second business organization having the computer system and rental vehicle software program resident therein, and wherein said second business organization includes a plurality of geographically diverse rental vehicle locations. 10

5 3. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 2 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit a rental vehicle reservation to be initiated remote from said authorized purchaser and communicated to said authorized purchaser for authorization.

4. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 3 wherein said software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation through said internet web portal.

5 5. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 4 wherein said software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation including extending a time period for which said reservation authorizes use of a rental vehicle.

6. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 4 wherein said software program is configured to permit said authorized

purchaser to generate reports relating to rental vehicle reservation activity conducted through said software program.

7. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 6 wherein said software program further comprises a data base, said data base storing rental vehicle reservation activity for access by said authorized purchasers.

8. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 7 wherein said software program is configured to automatically communicate billing information to said authorized purchaser for further processing.

9. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 8 wherein said software program is configured to communicate messages between said authorized purchaser and any others having access to said software program.

10. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 9 wherein said software program is configured for allowing access through its internet web portal to a plurality of service providers, and for limiting the functionality available to said plurality of service providers.

11. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 10 wherein said plurality of service providers include vehicle repair facilities.

12. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 1 further comprising a second computer system, said second computer system having a second computer software program resident thereon, said second computer software program being configured to process rental vehicle transactions at a plurality of geographically diverse branch facilities each of which has a plurality of vehicles for rental, said second computer system being linked to said first computer system.

13. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 12 wherein each of said first and second computer systems comprises a network having a main frame computer, said main frame computers being linked to each other, and wherein said second computer system further comprises a WAN.

14. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 13 wherein said authorized purchaser comprises a business organization, said business organization having a plurality of authorized purchasers, said plurality of authorized purchasers being enabled to access said internet web portal from any location offering internet web access,

and further comprising a second business organization, said second business organization having the second computer system resident therein, and wherein said second business organization includes the plurality of geographically diverse rental vehicle locations.

15. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 14 wherein said first software program is configured to permit a rental vehicle reservation to be initiated remote from said authorized purchaser and communicated to said authorized purchaser for authorization.

16. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 15 wherein said first software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation through said internet web portal.

17. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 16 wherein said first software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation including extending a time period for which said reservation authorizes use of a rental vehicle.

18. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 16 wherein said first software program is configured to permit said authorized purchaser to generate reports relating to rental vehicle reservation activity conducted through said first software program.

19. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 18 wherein said first software program further comprises a data base, said data base storing rental vehicle reservation activity for access by said authorized purchasers.

20. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 19 wherein said first software program is configured to automatically communicate billing information to said authorized purchaser for further processing.

21. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 20 wherein said first software program is configured to communicate messages between said authorized purchaser and any others having access to said software program.

22. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 21 wherein said first software program is configured for allowing access through its internet web portal to a plurality of service providers, and for limiting the functionality available to said plurality of service providers.

23. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 22 wherein said plurality of service providers include vehicle repair facilities.

24. An automatic rental vehicle transaction system, said system having a graphical user interface (GUI) through which an authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services may access a rental vehicle software program resident on a computer system, said rental vehicle software program being configured to automatically respond to a series of commands from said authorized purchaser and communicate a rental vehicle reservation to a specific geographically remote rental vehicle location at which vehicles for rent are situated, said rental vehicle reservation having sufficient information for authorizing, processing and billing said rental vehicle transaction so that a rental vehicle transaction may be automatically processed thereby virtually without human intervention.

25. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 24 wherein said authorized purchaser comprises a business organization, said business organization having a plurality of authorized purchasers, said plurality of authorized purchasers being enabled to access said rental vehicle software program from any location offering access to said computer system, and further comprising a second business organization, said second business organization having the computer system and rental vehicle software program resident therein, and wherein said second business organization includes a plurality of geographically diverse rental vehicle locations.

26. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 25 further comprising a second computer system resident in said second business organization, said second computer system having a second computer software program resident thereon, said second computer software program being configured to process rental vehicle transactions at the plurality of geographically diverse branch facilities each of which has a plurality of vehicles for rental, said second computer system being linked to said first computer system.

27. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 26 wherein each of said first and second computer systems comprises a network having a main frame computer, said main frame computers being linked to each other, and wherein said second computer system further comprises a WAN.

28. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 27 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit a rental vehicle reservation to be initiated remote from said authorized purchaser and communicated to said authorized purchaser for
5 authorization.

29. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 28 wherein said first software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation through said internet web portal.

30. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 29 wherein said first software program is configured to permit said authorized purchaser to generate reports relating to rental vehicle reservation activity conducted through said first software program.

31. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 30 wherein said first software program is configured to automatically communicate billing information to said authorized purchaser for further processing.

32. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 31 wherein said first software program is configured to communicate messages between said authorized purchaser and any others having access to said software program.

33. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 32 wherein said first software program is configured for allowing access thereto to a plurality of service providers, and for limiting the functionality available to said plurality of service providers.

34. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 33 wherein said plurality of service providers include vehicle repair facilities.

35. A computer software program to provide an internet portal access by a multi-level business organization to a service provider's integrated business, said access being sufficient for placing and monitoring orders for delivery of services by said integrated
5 business, said integrated business including a computer system having a business software program configured to automatically accept reservations for, and provide administrative control and accounting for, services offered and physically available at a plurality of geographically diverse locations.

36. The computer program of claim 35 wherein said internet portal software program is configured to provide said access to said

~~business software program for a range of functional interactions therewith.~~

37. The computer program of claim 36 wherein said internet portal computer software program is configured to provide access to an authorized purchaser of said service provider's services, said authorized purchaser comprising a multi-level business organization
5 requiring interaction at a plurality of levels of said business software program.

38. The computer program of claim 37 wherein said service provider is itself a multi-level business organization, said business software program providing communication of business information needed to effectively execute reservations placed for delivery of its
5 services, and wherein said internet portal software program is configured to provide interaction between different levels of both of said business organizations.

39. The computer program of claim 38 wherein said internet portal software program is further configured to provide controlled access to said business software program by third party service providers.

40. The computer program of claim 38 wherein said internet portal software is resident on a first computer system and said business software program is resident on a second computer system, and wherein each of said first and second computer systems comprises
5 a network having a main frame computer, said main frame computers being linked to each other, and wherein said second computer system further comprises a WAN.

41. A method for providing an internet portal through which an authorized purchaser comprising a multi-level business organization of rental vehicle services may access a rental vehicle software program resident on a rental vehicle provider's business
5 computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an internet portal computer system having a software program configured to create internet access thereto; and
establishing a link between said two computer systems; said internet portal software program being further configured to
10 facilitate functional interaction between the software program resident on said rental vehicle provider's business computer system and an authorized purchaser logged onto said internet portal software program.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein each of said computer systems further comprises a main frame computer, and wherein the step of establishing a link includes the step of establishing a link between said two main frame computers.

43. A method for providing a GUI interface through which an authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services comprising a multi-level business organization may access a rental vehicle software program resident on a rental vehicle provider's business computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

5 providing a computer system having a software program configured to create a GUI interface; and

10 establishing a link between said two computer systems; said GUI interface software program being further configured to facilitate functional interaction between the software program resident on said rental vehicle provider's business computer system and an authorized purchaser logged onto said GUI interface software program.

44. The method of claim 43 wherein each of said computer systems further comprises a main frame computer, and wherein the step of establishing a link includes the step of establishing a link between said two main frame computers.

45. An internet enabled automatic rental vehicle transaction system, said system having an internet web portal through which an authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services may access a rental vehicle software program resident on a computer system, said rental vehicle software program being configured to automatically respond to a series of commands from said authorized purchaser and communicate a rental vehicle reservation to a centralized destination, said rental vehicle reservation having sufficient information for authorizing, processing and billing said rental vehicle transaction so that a rental vehicle transaction may be automatically processed thereby virtually without human intervention.

46. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 4 wherein said software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to generate a report comprised of that users work load sorted.